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France

Pest/Disease Occurrences

Avian Flu confirmed in Three Dead Wild Swans in Eastern France

2007

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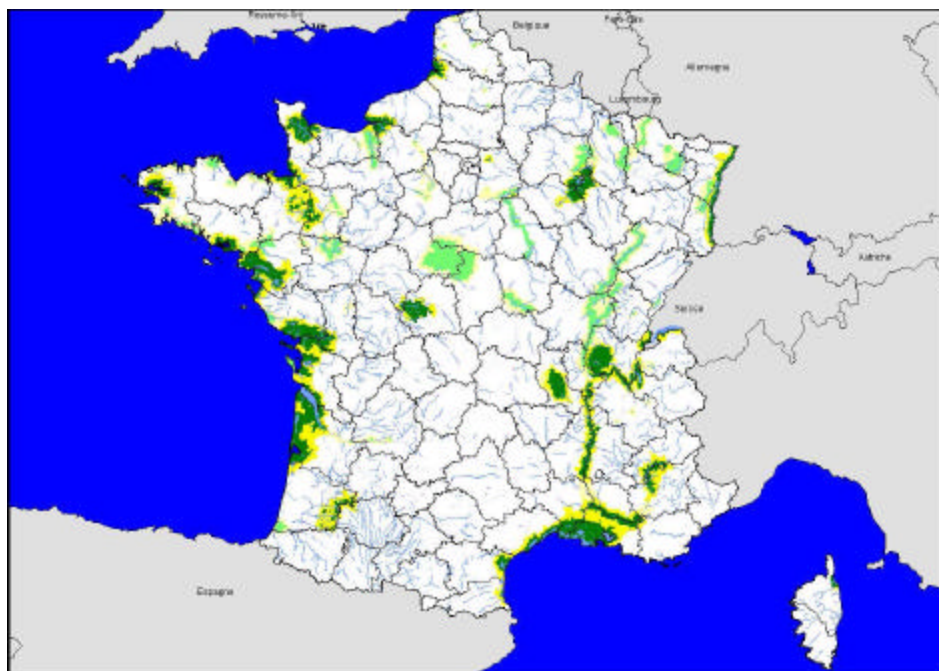
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Report Highlights:

On July 5, 2007, French officials confirmed the presence of the H5N1 virus in three dead swans found in eastern France. The French Ministry of Agriculture (MinAg) has raised the AI alert level from "moderate" to "high" thus triggering stronger preventive controls for bird owners who must now prevent any direct or indirect contact between their birds and wild birds. The MinAg, as well as French poultry producers, hope this development will not lead to a sharp decrease in poultry demand.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Annual Report
Paris [FR1]
[FR]

On July 5, 2007, French officials confirmed the presence of the H5N1 virus in three swans found dead on July 3rd in eastern France, close to the German border. Following this announcement, the French Ministry of Agriculture raised its avian influenza (AI) alert level from "moderate" to "high" thus increasing the risk protection measures required to protect domestic birds. Poultry and bird producers must now prevent any direct or indirect contact between their birds and wild birds. These measures could include housing birds indoors, using nets as barriers or alternatively, keeping feed and water indoors. Any alternate measure must be approved by an on-site veterinarian visit, and in the most vulnerable zones around wetland and lake regions, (in green in the map below) the veterinarian must re-evaluate the alternative measures monthly.



Further, all events involving the gathering of birds, for either commercial or competitive purposes (such as carrier pigeon competitions) are banned in France until further notice. The Ministry of Agriculture has asked its local representatives and veterinarians, as well as private individuals, to increase their monitoring of wild and commercial birds.

The Ministry of Agriculture and French poultry producers will be watching the impact this announcement may have on the French public. In April 2006, after discovery of AI in a French commercial turkey flock, French poultry demand fell significantly (see table below). France is the EU's largest poultry producer and summer is the peak poultry consumption period in France. FAS Paris will continue to monitor the situation closely and report any new developments.

Impact of the 2006 AI case on France broiler's supply and demand

(See GAIN report FR5080 & FR6017)

Chicken (‘000 MT)	2004	2005	2006	2007 (forecast)
Production	960	923	821	840
Intra EU imports	177	196	182	220
Extra EU imports	22	14	20	25

Intra EU exports	131	133	103	100
Extra EU Exports	263	235	184	220
Consumption (*)	765	765	736	775

(* includes stocks variations : stocks which grew significantly in 2006)

Source FAS Paris